2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

15 March 2010

Original: English

New York, 3-28 May 2010

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

Memorandum of the secretariat of the African Union

The Treaty of Pelindaba is a key component of the overall peace and security architecture of the African Union. It can be regarded as one of the building blocks of the Common African Defence and Security Policy, as articulated in the Solemn Declaration adopted by the African Union at its second extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 28 February 2004. Indeed, in the area of nuclear disarmament, the African Union was focused on promoting the ratification and entry into force of the Treaty. The Treaty, which calls for an African nuclear-weapons-free zone, was adopted by the thirty-first ordinary session of the Organization of African Unity summit, held in Addis Ababa in June 1995, and signed in Cairo on 11 April 1996. This was seen as an important step towards the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, complete disarmament and the enhancement of regional peace and security. On 22 June 2009, Burundi ratified the Treaty of Pelindaba and deposited its instrument of ratification with the African Union Commission. With this ratification, on 15 July 2009, the Treaty finally entered into force, 13 years after it had been signed.

In accordance with article 12 of the Treaty (mechanism for compliance), States parties to the Treaty agree to establish the African Commission on Nuclear Energy. This is in conformity with article 14 of the Treaty, which states that as soon as the Treaty has entered into force, a Conference should be convened to elect the members of the Commission and determine its headquarters.

In this context, the African Union Commission is planning to convene the first Conference of States Parties (see list below) to the Treaty of Pelindaba, to be held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 17 April 2010, to establish the African Commission on Nuclear Energy and discuss other related issues, including the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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States parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba

Algeria

Benin

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Côte d'Ivoire

Equatorial Guinea

Ethiopia

Gabon

Gambia

Guinea

Kenya

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Lesotho

Madagascar

Mali

Malawi

Mozambique

Mauritania

Mauritius

Nigeria

Rwanda

South Africa

Senegal

Swaziland

Togo

Tunisia

United Republic of Tanzania

Zimbabwe

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17 March 2010

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Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Finland

1. Finland is strongly committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Finland strongly supports the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a cornerstone of securing international peace and security. The increase in the number of countries utilizing nuclear energy underlines the importance of the Treaty.

2. Finland considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty essential to contain the proliferation of nuclear arms in all its aspects. Finland signed the Treaty on the first day it was opened for signature and completed the ratification process in 1999. A primary seismological station and a radionuclide laboratory are located in Finnish territory as part of the International Monitoring System. Finland is fully committed to the obligations of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and makes every effort to promote its entry into force at the earliest possible date. Finland has participated actively in the work of the Preparatory Commission and its subsidiary working groups, as well as with "the Friends of the CTBT". Finland has continued its capacity-building efforts. Finnish software has been distributed free of charge and is now in use in several national data centres and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty laboratories around the world.

3. Finland has been a member of the Conference on Disarmament since 1996 and calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, without preconditions.

4. The international safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a fundamental pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Finland considers that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, represents the verification standard pursuant to article III (1) of the Treaty. Finland calls upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and to ratify the Additional Protocol without delay. Finland has concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA and has signed and ratified the Additional Protocol, which entered into force on 30 April 2004, at the same time as the other States members of the European Union. The integrated safeguards have been applied

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in Finland since 15 October 2008. Also, the specific safeguards approaches are ready for implementation. The safeguards implementation for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel has started in Finland.

5. Finland is a member of all relevant export control regimes, such as the Nuclear Supplier Group and the Zangger Committee, and supports the strengthening of their guidelines and understandings, respectively.

6. Finland supports Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and is committed to its effective implementation. In this regard Finland is implementing the new European Union export control regulation 428/2009 at the national level. It covers also the control of transit, trans-shipment and brokering as provided by the Council resolution 1540 (2004). Finland has also enhanced coordination between national authorities and raised awareness about proliferation risks and about the resolution among State authorities and the public. It has provided assistance to other States, for example, through contributions to the Group of Eight Global Partnership Programme and through voluntary contributions to IAEA.

7. Finland welcomes Security Council resolution 1887 (2009).

8. Finland will do its utmost to achieve a substantial and balanced outcome of the 2010 Review Conference.

9. Finland reaffirms its commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in all its aspects and the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons. The universalization of the Treaty and full compliance with the Treaty's provisions are of utmost importance.